

1. (Currently Amended) A computer network implemented method, comprising:  
receiving, in a computer system including at least one digital computer including associated central processor, memory, input, and output devices, a CID;  
determining, using said computer system, whether CID associated data associated with said CID meets invitation offer criteria associated with an invitation code;  
storing, using said computer system, said CID in memory in association with [[an]] said invitation code when said CID associated data ~~associated with said CID~~ meets said invitation offer criteria ~~associated with said invitation code~~;  
storing, using said computer system, in association with said invitation code, contract terms comprising terms for a contract for a subscription to a periodical publication;  
transmitting, to an offer terminal, data defining said CID and said invitation code in order to provide an invitation to a consumer;  
receiving, from an acceptance terminal, said invitation code in association with said CID subsequent to said transmitting, thereby indicating acceptance of said invitation by said consumer; and  
storing in computer memory, said CID in association with a transaction tracking code.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether consumer data associated with said CID meets said invitation offer criteria.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said invitation offer criteria comprises criteria for POS data.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said invitation offer criteria comprises criteria for block data.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said invitation offer criteria comprises criteria for preference data.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said invitation offer criteria comprises criteria for profile data.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said invitation offer

criteria comprises criteria for demographic data.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said invitation offer criteria comprises criteria for magazine purchases.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said contract terms comprise a name of said periodical publication.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said contract terms comprise a price for said subscription.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said contract terms comprise an expiration date for said invitation.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said contract terms include terms of an incentive offer.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said terms of said incentive offer include a cash discount.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitting comprises transmitting when said CID is involved in a transaction at said offer terminal.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising updating an invitation offer record in an invitation offer database to indicate that code associated with said record has been used in an invitation offered to a customer.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said invitation offer record also stores at least one of the following items: a name of a periodical publication, a subscription price, an offer expiration date, and an incentive offer.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said invitation offer record also stores at least two of the following items: a name of a periodical publication, a subscription price, an offer expiration date, and an incentive offer.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising either generating or updating a consumer invitation record in a consumer invitation database to store a CID and a unique code.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said consumer invitation record also stores at least ~~[[one]]~~ three of the following items: a name of a periodical publication, a subscription price, an invitation expiration date, an incentive offer, and a subscription term.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said consumer invitation record also stores at least ~~[[two]]~~ four of the following items: a name of a periodical publication, a subscription price, an invitation expiration date, incentive offer, subscription term.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said consumer invitation record also stores data indicating whether said invitation has been provided to said consumer.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprises receiving payment for said subscription when receiving from said acceptance terminal said invitation code.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising receiving payment for product purchases concurrently with receiving said payment for said subscription.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating a consumer confirmation record in a consumer confirmation database after receiving from said acceptance terminal said invitation code.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein said consumer confirmation record includes a CID and a transaction tracking code.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said consumer

confirmation record also includes at least one of the following items: a name of a periodical publication, a subscription price, a subscription term, a confirmation activation expiration date, an incentive offer, and an incentive offer expiration date.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said consumer confirmation record also includes at least two of the following items: a name of a periodical publication, a subscription price, a subscription term, a confirmation activation expiration date, an incentive offer, and an incentive offer expiration date.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one criteria of said invitation offer criteria is whether a magazine is purchased.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one criteria of said invitation offer criteria is whether said consumer [[user]] is in a specified top fraction of spenders.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said invitation is provided to said consumer via direct mail.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said invitation is provided to said consumer via printing at an in-store printer.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising activating said subscription.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said activating comprises receiving at an activation center a telephone call from said consumer.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said activating comprises receiving a mailing from said consumer.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said activating comprises receiving activation data transmitted by said consumer over the Internet.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising printing said invitation and including a printed unique bar code.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein magazine name, magazine subscription price, and offer expiration date are encrypted in said unique bar code.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein magazine name, magazine subscription price and offer expiration date are encrypted in said transaction tracking code.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing at least two of the following items: a retail store computer system, a central computer system[[;]], an activation center computer system, a publisher computer system, a mailing facility computer system, and a coupon clearing house computer system.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing at least three of the following items: a retail store computer system, a central computer system; an activation center computer system, a publisher computer system, a mailing facility computer system, and a coupon clearing house computer system.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing POS data in association with [[CIDS]] CIDs in a consumer data database.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein said consumer data database also stores in association with CIDs at least one of the following items: profile data, preference data, demographic data, and block data.

44. (Previously presented) A computer network system, comprising:  
a central processor and associated memory;  
a terminal for receiving a CID;  
a consumer data database storing data in association with CIDs;  
memory structure for storing said CID in association with an invitation code when data in said consumer data database associated with said CID meets invitation offer criteria associated with said invitation code;

memory structure for storing in association with said invitation code contract terms comprising terms for a contract for a subscription to a periodical publication;

an offer terminal; a network transmitter for transmitting to said offer terminal data defining said CID and said invitation code in order to provide an invitation to a consumer;

an acceptance terminal; a network receiver for receiving from said acceptance terminal said invitation code in association with said CID indicating acceptance of said invitation by said consumer; and

memory structure for storing said CID in association with a transaction tracking code.

45-86. (Canceled).

87. (Previously presented) A computer network program product, comprising code stored on a computer readable medium for performing the following steps when loaded on networked computers:

receiving a CID;

storing said CID in memory in association with an invitation code when data associated with said CID meets invitation offer criteria associated with said invitation code;

storing in association with said invitation code contract terms comprising terms for a contract for a subscription to a periodical publication;

transmitting to an offer terminal data defining said CID and said invitation code in order to provide an invitation to a consumer;

receiving from an acceptance terminal said invitation code in association with said CID subsequent to said transmitting indicating acceptance of said invitation by said consumer; and  
storing said CID in association with a transaction tracking code.

88. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:  
a consumer providing to a POS terminal their CID;  
said POS terminal reading said CID;  
determining, using a computer system, whether CID associated data associated in computer memory with said CID meets invitation offer criteria associated with an invitation code;

storing in computer memory, said CID in memory in association with [[an]] said invitation code when said CID associated data ~~associated with said CID~~ meets said invitation

offer criteria ~~associated with said invitation code~~;

storing in computer memory, in association with said invitation code, contract terms comprising terms for a contract for a subscription to a periodical publication;

said consumer receiving at a POS terminal an invitation including data defining said CID and said invitation code;

said consumer providing to a POS terminal said invitation code in association with said CID subsequent to receiving said invitation, thereby indicating acceptance of said invitation by said consumer; and

storing said CID in computer memory in association with a transaction tracking code.

89. (Currently amended) A computer network implemented method, comprising:  
receiving, in a computer system, a CID associated with a consumer;  
determining, using said computer system, whether CID associated data associated in computer memory with said CID meets invitation offer criteria associated with an invitation code;

storing in computer memory, said CID ~~in memory~~ in association with [[an]] said invitation code only when said CID associated data ~~associated with said CID~~ meets said invitation offer criteria ~~associated with said invitation code~~;

storing in computer memory, in association with said invitation code contract terms comprising terms for a contract for at least one of a product and a service;

transmitting to an offer terminal data defining said CID and said invitation code in order to provide an invitation including an offer for said at least one of a product and a service to said consumer;

receiving from an acceptance terminal said invitation code in association with said CID subsequent to said transmitting indicating acceptance of said invitation by said consumer; and  
storing in computer memory said CID in association with a transaction tracking code.

90. (Canceled).

91. (Previously presented) A computer network system, comprising:  
a central processor and associated memory;  
a terminal for receiving a CID associated with a consumer;  
a consumer data database storing data in association with CIDs;

memory structure for storing said CID in association with an invitation code when data in said consumer data database associated with said CID meets invitation offer criteria associated with said invitation code;

memory structure for storing in association with said invitation code contract terms comprising terms for a contract for at least one of a product and a service;

an offer terminal;

a network transmitter for transmitting to said offer terminal data defining said CID and said invitation code in order to provide an invitation to purchase said at least one of said product and said service to said consumer;

an acceptance terminal;

a network receiver for receiving from said acceptance terminal said invitation code in association with said CID indicating acceptance of said invitation by said consumer; and

memory structure for storing said CID in association with a transaction tracking code.